Health Mission to provide comprehensive integrated primary health services throughout the country.

The demographic indicators of the country have improved considerably. The Total Fertility Rate has declined from 6 in 1951 to 3.2 in 1999. The Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 146 in 1951 to 64 per thousand population. The Maternal Mortality Ratio has declined from 437 in 1992 to 407 per lakh live births. The decadal growth rate of population has declined from 24.66% (1981) to 21.34% (2001). Similarly, Annual Growth Rate of population has declined from 2.22% (1981) to 1.93% (2001).

National Institute of Preventive and Community Health

544. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up a National Institute of Preventive and Community Health on the lines of IIT and IIM to train specialists in preventive and community health;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the said institute, apart from giving training;

(c) the number of such institutions which are going to be located in the country; and

(d) whether Government had any plan to start such institute in Andhra Pradesh keeping in view the development and the excellent health infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Keeping in view the policy of good public health professionals in the country, it is being explored as to how to strengthen the architecture of public health in India by establishing new institutes of public health of excellence of the level IITs and IIMs and upscaling the existing institutions which provide training in public health. For this purpose, the Planning Commission has already accorded in principle approval for setting up of Public Health schools in India during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Detailed action plan is being formulated.